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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CD 66

Date 12/4/63

JAMES ANTHONY BOTELHO, 820 West Alisal Street, Salinas, California, advised he was in the Marine Corps from January 8, 1957 to January 8, 1960, and served with OSWALD from about March to September, 1959, while they were attached to Marine Air Control Squadron Number Nine, Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana, California. OSWALD received hardship discharge in about September, 1959 to help his mother. He had no indication OSWALD was going to Russia until BOTELHO's parents sent him a UPI release datelined Moscow in about September or October, 1959, which indicated OSWALD would stay in Russia since he was not happy under U. S. Capitalism.

Since OSWALD's defection received so little publicity, BOTELHO thought OSWALD might have been a spy for us. He would not have been as surprised if OSWALD would have gone to Cuba because he once mentioned he would like to go to Cuba to train CASTRO's troops because of the money he would earn.

BOTELHO shared the same room with OSWALD the two months prior to OSWALD's discharge. OSWALD was very unusual in that he would not speak unless spoken to, and his answers were always brief. He associated with others as little as possible. OSWALD subscribed to Russian language newspaper which he said was published in San Francisco, and to which he stated he first subscribed while in Tokyo so that he would learn the Russian language. He never gave any reason for his interest in the Russian language.

RICHARD CALL, in another language, began calling OSWALD "OSWALDSKOVICH" (phonetic) and other Marines continued to do this. One day BOTELHO called him OSWALD and OSWALD requested that he continue to call him OSWALDSKOVICH and was serious in his comment. BOTELHO advised that Marines also began to answer OSWALD by using expressions like "Da" and "Nyet" and OSWALD would sometimes talk to them in Russian. RICHARD CALL also in a kidding manner talked to OSWALD about our capitalistic warmongering system and OSWALD took his comments seriously and seemed to agree.

On 12/3/63 at Salinas, California File # SF 89-58

by SA ORVILLE M. MOLMEN/clh Date dictated 12/4/63

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SF 89-58
ONH/clh

OSWALD had a rough time in the Marines because of insubordination such as reporting late for muster and appearance not up to Marine standards. OSWALD did his own laundry and his pressing not very neat. There was considerable pressure on OSWALD to become a better Marine and this may have accounted for his dislike of the United States and his interest in Russia.

OSWALD never engaged in any fights although he had many verbal arguments with superiors because of his infraction of rules. OSWALD did comment on the court martial he received while in Japan and indicated he had beaten up a sergeant who had been riding him for no good reason, according to OSWALD. He stated he met the sergeant while off duty in a bar and the sergeant insulted him, and since both were pretty intoxicated, the fight occurred.

BOTELHO stated OSWALD almost never went on liberty. He was accompanied by BOTELHO to a movie in Santa Ana, and on one other occasion they walked around Santa Ana. OSWALD also dated a girl from Santa Ana once, but she did not accept a second request for a date, so he did not see her again. Her identity is not known to BOTELHO. OSWALD liked to read paperback books and play classical records, one in particular "Russian War Dance" by TSCHAIKOWSKY which he played over and over. BOTELHO played one or two games of chess with OSWALD, but BOTELHO knew little about the game.

BOTELHO stated he cannot recall that OSWALD ever had a visit from anyone. He seemed to be without funds and indicated this was due to an allotment he paid his mother. He also said he had a brother whom he did not like.

BOTELHO knows of no subversive connections or memberships and was shocked when OSWALD identified as responsible for the death of President Kennedy.